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RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 9263  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 8906  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 3902  
RUEHFIR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 6602  
RUEHR/AMEMBASSY RIYADH 5893  
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI 0475  
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE 6212  
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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 ISLAMABAD 003339

NOFORN  
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/22/2018  
TAGS: PGOV PK PREL PTER  
SUBJECT: ZARDARI EXPRESSES DELIGHT WITH CHINA VISIT, LOOKS  
TO FRIENDS FOR HELP ON CHALLENGES

Classified By: Anne W. Patterson, Reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

¶1. (S/NF) Summary: In a wide-ranging discussion with visiting SCA Assistant Secretary Boucher, President Zardari expressed complete satisfaction with China's visit. Minister of Information Sherry Rehman joined Zardari.

¶13. (S/NF) Zardari told Boucher his visit to China was &great.8 He confirmed that the Chinese had committed to building two additional nuclear power plants for Pakistan ( Chashma 3 and 4). He noted that the Chinese were providing only old technology, and that Pakistan had no choice but to accept &junk.8 Boucher told

¶14. (S/NF) Zardari also told Boucher that the Chinese had committed to providing assistance to Pakistan's security forces. Arguing that Chi

¶15. (C) Although silent on the question of possible Chinese balance of payments support to Pakistan, Zardari lauded Chinese &out-of-box8 this friends of Pakistan

¶16. (C) Zardari confirmed that he wants to formally change the name of the group to Friends of Democratic Pakistan. In response to Boucher'

¶17. (C) As for other possible additions to the Friends group, Boucher suggested that Spain and the Scandinavians might be

ISLAMABAD 00003339 002 OF 003 good additions. Zardari assented, and asked Boucher if the U.S. would support Libya's inclusion, to which Boucher agreed. Zardari suggested

¶18. (C) Boucher reminded Zardari that the Friends group is not a &checkbook8 organization. He noted that we need to sit with the steering c

¶19. (S/NF) In an aside, Zardari mentioned that Iran has offered to provide Pakistan with concessional oil. How could he go to the National Counter-Insurgency

¶10. (S) Zardari stressed repeatedly his determination to carry through with the fight against extremism and militancy. &I don't believe in talking to the Taliban,8 he said.

&We won't do it on our side of the border.8 He noted that he has built a good relationship with the military and praised the leadership of C

¶11. (C) In response to Boucher's question about the National Assembly debate on Pakistan's counter-insurgency strategy, Zardari expressed

¶12. (C) Describing his legislative strategy going forward, Zardari said that proposed revisions to the Frontier Crimes Regulations (FCR) &

He anticipates that the extension of the Political Parties Act to the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (permitting political parties to or

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life, Zardari declared.

¶13. (S) Turning to the fighting in Bajaur, Zardari asserted that the government needs a mechanism to get compensation into the hands of t Responding that we anticipate the financial requirement would be less than that, Boucher and the Ambassador assured Zardari we are looking f

¶14. (S) As for the Pakistan-Afghanistan mini-jirga scheduled for Islamabad in a week's time, Zardari expressed the hope that it will re-c He expressed the hope that the jirga could re-consolidate the government's position among the majority of the tribes, noting that the governm

Friends: the U.S. and the UK

¶15. (C) Zardari mused about the need to reach out to the new U.S. Administration after the elections and suggested that he would like to

¶16. (S/NF) As for the UK, Zardari expressed some concern that their support was getting wobbly. He believes that their views reflect the

If Zardari achieves results, he asserted, then the British will come around.

Comment

¶17. (S/NF) Zardari was clearly buoyed by his visit to China and in good spirits as he looks ahead to the serious challenges that confront

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